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Aug 1960

Assistant Director, OPC

Assistant Director, OME

Intelligence Support of OPC

1. Relationships between OME and OPC on intelligence support matters during the past year have been remarkably effective in view of the newness of the OPC function to the Agency and the lack of formally established methods of operations between the two Offices.

2. Based upon experience gained during this period it appears to OME that the institution of mutually agreed upon policies and procedures would further increase the effectiveness of inter-office relationships and eliminate the few problems that have appeared.

3. The problems that are hindering the fullest OPC support of OPC at present are briefly described below. OME realizes that the causes of these problems were not the responsibility of either Office concerned, rather that the problems are a natural result of the difficulties in coordinating new intelligence activities.

a. Indeterminate liaison and its result - incomplete understanding of the OPC request for intelligence support: Experience has shown OME that the restrictions on liaison between OPC personnel and OME's analysts has resulted in:

(1) Requests being transmitted to OME for production when the basic questions might be adequately fulfilled by consultation or by reference to authoritative sources known to the OME analysts.

(2) OPC receiving intelligence support from OME that may not be as full or accurate as it might be because the OME analyst has insufficient knowledge of the purpose, scope, or specific terms of reference desired by OPC. Such conditions also place an unnecessary burden on OME analysts.

b. Insufficient Screening of Requests Prior to Referral to OME: Although certain remedial action appears already to have been taken, certain requests for OME production have indicated that normal reference facilities were not adequately exploited before requests for intelligence production were initiated.

c. Insufficient Use of IAC agencies: To date, OME coordinating functions have not been employed to utilize fully the IAC agencies for intelligence production in support of OPC. It is believed that certain requests received in the past could have been sent to the IAC agencies for action.

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h. As a solution to the problem described above and to increase the effectiveness of intelligence support to OPC, the following proposals are recommended for your approval:

a. The establishment of one liaison officer in each ORE regional division and in the appropriate using components of OPC for the purpose of:

(1) Insuring complete understanding of the terms of reference, scope, and specific needs of OPC.

(2) Screening out requests that are more easily fulfilled by reference to sources known to ORE analysts.

(3) The oral satisfaction of requests.

Note: Formal requests for intelligence projects would continue to flow through Publications Division, ORE channels. The liaison function described above is to screen, review, and clarify requests before they are transmitted formally.

b. The institution of procedures within OPC to ensure more exhaustive screening of requests (and fuller exploitation of reference facilities and external research facilities by OPC) prior to the framing of requests for intelligence production. (ORE, through the liaison function described above, may be able to assist OPC in such advance screening.)

c. The assignment of an OPC staff officer to the Plans and Policy Staff, ORE, for the purpose of assisting in the development of intelligence requirements, production programs and to collaborate in the negotiations for external research in support of OPC.

d. The fullest possible utilization of the official ORE coordinating function to arrange for intelligence production by IAC intelligence agencies in support of OPC requirements. This function is a responsibility of the Publications Division, ORE, and therefore would require no more intra-agency coordination and review.

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[redacted] /pc
18 Sept. 1950

5. There is attached a draft ORE operating procedure that will be published for the guidance of ORE personnel if the proposals in paragraph h above are approved by OPC.

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THEODORE BABBITT
Assistant Director
Reports and Estimates

Distribution:

Addressee - ORE

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Attachment: Draft ORE

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